

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 12, 2009. Claims 16, 17, 19, 31 and 33 are pending in the application, of which claims 16, 31 and 33 are in independent form. Claims 1-15, 18, 20-30 and 32 have been canceled in this case. Claims 16, 31 and 33 have been amended. Favorable consideration is hereby requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, related to the recitation “means for locking the support in the first and second use position” as being redundant. Applicants have deleted this recitation from claim 31 thus rendering these changes moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 16, 17, 19, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 8-323067 (hereafter JP ‘067). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 16, 31 and 33 have been amended as shown above. In particular, claim 16 has been amended to recite that the operable actuator 36 comprises a hollow body 37 passing through an aperture 39 provided on the handle 2 and a release button 43 including a pusher 47 movable in the hollow body 37. Claim 31 has been amended to recite that the operable actuator 36 includes a release button 43 including a pusher 47 and a cover member 53, the cover member 53 being clipped onto the pusher 47 and a recess 45 for receiving a finger of a user to help the user grip the manually operable actuator 36, the cover member 53 projecting from the recess 45 in the locking position and being at least partly received within the recess 45 in the unlocking position. Claim 33 has been amended to include both features discussed above in relation to claims 16 and 31.

JP ‘067 discloses an operable actuator (e.g. reference numerals 9, 11, shown on Figures 8 and 9 on the next page) and locking means (e.g. including reference numerals 13, 14, also shown on Figures 8 and 9). However, JP ‘067 does not disclose an operable actuator 36 that includes a hollow body 37 passing through an aperture 39 provided on the handle 2 and a release button 43 including a pusher 47 movable in the hollow body 37. In addition, JP ‘067 does not disclose an operable actuator 36 comprising a release button 43 including a pusher 47 and a cover member 53, where the cover member 53 clips onto the pusher 47, and a recess 45 for receiving a finger of a user to help the user grip the manually operable actuator 36, where the cover member 53 project from the recess 45 in the locking position and is at least partly received within the recess 45 in the unlocked position.

Figure 8

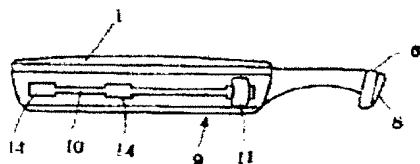
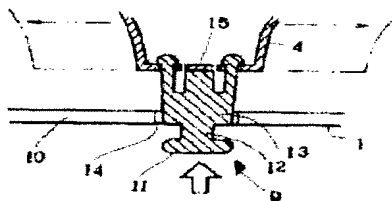


Figure 9



For at least the reasons provided above, the features in amended claims 16, 31 and 33 are patentable over JP '067. Moreover, dependent claims 17 and 19 depend from claim 16, and are patentable at least for the reasons provided above in relation to claim 16.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,

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